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FBI - San Diego Field Office

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Event: Telephone Interview of Lincoln Higgie

Date: November 19, 2003

Special Access Issues: None

Prepared by: Dieter Snell

9/11 Personal Privacy

Team Number: 1A

Location: La Jolla, CA

Participant – Commission: Dieter Snell

Lincoln Higgie is the owner of a house on Saranac Street opposite the Al-Rabat Mosque in La Mesa, CA and has resided there for the past 4 ½ years. Reached by telephone at [redacted] he agreed to be interviewed regarding a statement attributed to him in a commemorative 9/11 article that appeared in Newsweek this past September. In the article, Higgie recalled "the imam knocking on his door in the first week of August 2001 to tell him he was leaving for Kuwait. 'He came over before he left and told me that something very big was going to happen, and that he had to be out of the country when it happened'. . . ."

Shortly after moving into his home in early 1999, Aulaqi came over and welcomed him to the neighborhood. Aulaqi noted that there would be times, especially on Fridays, when parishners would need to park their cars on the street, and that Aulaqi would do what he could to make sure that this didn't cause Higgie any problems. Aulaqi also invited Higgie to contact him directly in the event any issue should arise regarding the mosque.

Aulaqi lived in a house on the mosque property and proved to be a very good neighbor. He was "very outgoing and cheerful" and had a "very retiring" wife and "two adorable kids." Aulaqi liked to go fishing and, from time to time, would appear on Higgie's doorstep to share some of the day's catch.

On the day described in the Newsweek article, Aulaqi came over to Higgie's house to say that he was going to leave because "something big was going to happen" in the US. Higgie recalls expressing chagrin to Aulaqi at losing such a good neighbor. Aulaqi insisted that he had to leave due to the impending event, but did not elaborate as to what that event might be. Although Higgie told the Newsweek reporter that Aulaqi said he was going to Kuwait, he now believes (after being asked directly) that the imam may actually have specified Yemen as his destination.

Shortly after Aulaqi's departure, the new imam came by Higgie's house and introduced himself. Then "the seven eleven thing happened."

Higgie has not heard from Aulaqi since the latter's departure in August 2001. In Higgie's mind, there is a clear connection between Aulaqi's statement about needing to depart and the 9/11 attacks. Higgie also thinks that US government and "the Mossad" knew or should have known about the attacks before they occurred.

When asked about the apartments at 7200 Saranac Street, which adjoin his property, Higgie stated that he knows the manager of the complex but has never known any of its residents. Higgie recalls working with the manager on a problem concerning some homeless people on the two properties.